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REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 12 to 23 March 1990

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report to the General Assembly has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Trade and Development Board in the annex to its decision 302 (XXIX) of 21 September 1984.

2. The second part of the thirty-sixth regular session of the Trade and Development Board was held from 12 to 23 March 1990 (766th to 772nd meetings) and was opened by Mr. Oscar de Rojas (Venezuela), President of the Board at its thirty-sixth session.

A. Agenda

3. The agenda for the second part of the thirty-sixth session is reproduced in annex I.

B. Bureau

4. The Bureau at the second part of the session was as follows:

President:	Mr. Oscar de ROJAS	(Venezuela)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Morris ABRAM	(United States of America)
	Mr. Ilian BOZEV	(Bulgaria)
	Mr. Hicham HAMDAN	(Lebanon)
	Mr. Akio IJUIN	(Japan)
	Mr. Jean-David LEVITTE	(France)
	Mr. Michael Joseph LILLIS	(Ireland)
	Mr. Wisber LOEIS	(Indonesia)
	Mr. Thomas A. OGADA	(Kenya)
	Mr. T.V. TEODOROVICH	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. Gustavo Adolfo VARGAS	(Nicaragua)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Abderrzak AZAIEZ	(Tunisia)

5. The officers of the Sessional Committee were:

Chairman:	Mr. Martin HECKER	(Germany, Federal Republic of)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Milan HOVORKA	(Czechoslovakia)
Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur:	Mr. Jure GASPARIC	(Yugoslavia)

C. Membership and attendance

6. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Board, were represented at the session:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belgium
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Yemen
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lebanon
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Somalia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukranian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

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7. The following other States members of UNCTAD, not members of the Board, were represented at the session: Cambodia; Holy See.

8. Palestine participated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX). The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania participated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX).

9. The Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Development Programme were represented at the session. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD-GATT was also represented at the session.

10. The following specialized and related agencies were represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
World Bank
International Monetary Fund

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented at the session.

11. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Commonwealth Secretariat
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
European Economic Community
International Textiles and Clothing Bureau
League of Arab States
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Organization of African Unity
Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration.

12. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General Category:
Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)
International Chamber of Commerce
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Foundation for Development Alternatives
Society for International Development
World Federation of Trade Unions
World Peace Council
Special Category:
International Association of Islamic Banks
International Organization of Consumer Unions

D. Resolution and decisions requiring the attention of, or action by, the General Assembly

13. The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the following resolution and decisions, the texts of which are contained in section II below:

Resolution

380 (XXXVI) Services within the mandate of UNCTAD as defined in the Final Act.
Protectionism and structural adjustment and, in conjunction therewith, developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 105 (8) of the Final Act.
The impact of technological change on patterns of international trade.
The implications of bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration, especially those which have major impact on global trade, in particular on the trade and development of developing countries.

Decisions

381 (XXXVI) Arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

382 (XXXVI) Future meetings on iron ore

383 (XXXVI) Review of the calendar of meetings

II. RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

A. Resolution

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380 (XXXVI) Services within the mandate of UNCTAD as defined in the Final Act.
Protectionism and structural adjustment and, in conjunction therewith, developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 105 (8) of the Final Act.
The impact of technological change on patterns of international trade.
The implications of bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration, especially those which have major impact on global trade, in particular on the trade and development of developing countries. .....

B. Decisions

381 (XXXVI) Arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development .....

382 (XXXVI) Future meetings on iron ore .....

38 (XXXVI) Review of the calendar of meetings .....

C. Other decisions

(a) Designation of the President of the Board at its thirty-seventh regular session .....

(b) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of election .....

(c) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees .....

Other action taken by the Board .....

A. RESOLUTION

380 (XXXVI) Services within the mandate of UNCTAD as defined in the Final Act. Protectionism and structural adjustment and, in conjunction therewith, developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 105 (8) of the Final Act. The impact of technological change on patterns of international trade. The implications of bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration, especially those which have major impact on global trade, in particular on the trade and development of developing countries.

The Trade and Development Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, the Final Act of UNCTAD VII and Board decision 367 (XXXV) of 17 March 1989,

1. Urges Governments to fulfil commitments to halt and reverse protectionism as agreed in the Final Act of UNCTAD VII taking in particular into account the export interests of developing countries and reiterates the need to take expeditious and concrete structural adjustment actions favourable, in particular, to the widening of markets for products in which the developing countries have or may develop comparative advantage;

2. Recognizes the contribution made by UNCTAD to a better understanding of the problematics of trade in services from the point of view of developing countries and in the context of overall development objectives and:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue, taking into account national case studies, specific studies on sectors of priority interest to developing countries particularly with a view to building and improving infrastructure and capabilities with the objective of developing efficient and competitive industries in these countries and thereby strengthening their export potential;

(b) Takes note of the high appreciation which the recipient countries expressed for technical co-operation activities of UNCTAD in the area of services in support of developing countries;

3. Reiterates paragragh 6 of General Assembly resolution 44/219 of 22 December 1989 and agrees on the need to ensure that bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration, especially those which have a major impact on global trade, in particular on the trade and development of developing countries, impart dynamism to global trade and enhance trade and development possibilities for the developing countries and calls on member States involved to continue to promote necessary policies and adopt appropriate measures in this regard;

4. Urges Governments to take measures to assist technologically weak countries, especially developing countries, to fully participate in technology-led growth in international trade in terms of product innovation, export supply and market penetration capabilities and affirms the need for pursuing policies in the areas of technology which further the goal of trade expansion for the benefit of all trading partners, particularly developing countries, and which promote investment, innovation, absorption, utilization and development of technological and entrepreneurial capabilities;

5. Urges participants in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to strive for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round which would result in the liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries, especially developing countries, through adequate attention being given to all areas including, in particular, those of special interest to the trade and development of developing countries;

6. Notes that recipient countries recognize the usefulness and the importance of the UNCTAD/UNDP technical co-operation programme in assisting developing countries in their participation in the Uruguay Round.

772nd meeting
23 March 1990

B. DECISIONS

381 (XXXVI) Arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The Trade and Development Board,

Recalling its decision 377 (XXXVI) of 13 October 1989, relating to the arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and General Assembly resolution 44/219 of 22 December 1989.

Taking note of the reports of the President of the Board and of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on their consultations under Board decision 377 (XXXVI).

Taking note also of the statements made in the plenary of the Board under this item.

1. Decides in principle to recommend to the General Assembly that the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development be convened during the month of June 1991, subject to confirmation by the Board at the first part of its thirty-seventh session;

2. Requests the President of the Board to continue his consultations with regard to the venue in Latin America of the Conference, so that a final decision may be taken not later than at the first part of the thirty-seventh session;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue his consultations with regard to the provisional agenda of the eighth session of the Conference, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible, and to present it for formal adoption by the Board at the first part of its thirty-seventh session.

772nd meeting
23 March 1990

382 (XXXVI) Future meetings on iron ore

The Trade and Development Board

Decides that UNCTAD's work on iron ore should be maintained and that regular intergovernmental meetings of experts should be convened, with the participation of industry advisers, to exchange views on the iron ore situation and to review and enhance iron ore statistics.

772nd meeting
23 March 1990

383 (XXXVI). Review of the calendar of meetings

The Trade and Development Board

Approves the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1990 and takes note of the draft calendar for 1991. 1/

772nd meeting
23 March 1990

1/ Circulated in TD/B/INF.177

C. OTHER DECISIONS

(a) Designation of the President of the Board at its thirty-seventh regular session

14. At the 772nd meeting, pursuant to its decision 338 (XXXIII) and in accordance with the rotation of the office of President indicated in annex I to the rules of procedure, the Board designated Mr. Jean-David Levitte (France) as President of the Board at its thirty-seventh session.

(b) Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems and all trade flows resulting therefrom

15. At the 772nd meeting, the Board took note of the following statement which the President read out as the outcome of informal consultations on this item in his Contact Group:

> As a result of the Board's consideration, it is understood that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will use his discretion in orienting and adjusting the work programme as he considers appropriate, in the light of developments and taking into account the views expressed during the session.

16. The statements made in this connexion are reproduced in part III below.

Other matters in the field of trade and development

17. At the 766th meeting, the Board noted that there had been no request for the inclusion in the agenda of an item on UNCTAD's contribution to the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. It was understood that the mandate given to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in Board decision 373 (XXXVI) remained valid.

Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of election

18. At the 766th meeting, on 12 March 1990, the Board took note that the membership of UNCTAD remained unchanged and stood at 168.

Other action taken by the Board

19. At the 766th meeting, on 12 March 1990, the Board took note that the membership of the Board and its main Committees remained unchanged and stood as follows: Trade and Development Board - 131; Committee on Commodities - 107; Committee on Manufactures - 101; Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade - 102; Committee on Shipping - 103; Committee on Transfer of Technology - 99; Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries - 110.

20. At the 722nd meeting, on 23 March 1990, the Board elected the People's Republic of the Congo to membership of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade, thus bringing the membership of the Committee to 103.

21. At the 722nd meeting, on 23 March 1990, the Board:

(a) Adopted the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives attending its sixteenth special session and the second part of the thirty-sixth regular session (TD/B/1255).

(b) Approved the draft provisional agenda for the first part of its thirty-seventh session (reproduced in annex II below) and authorized the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in consultation with the President, to adjust and complete that agenda in the light of developments, on the understanding that any amendments or additions would be referred to the consultative machinery established by Board decision 143 (XVI) and Board resolution 231 (XXII). The Board requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to consult delegations regarding the organization of work of the session and to circulate his suggestions thereon.

III. STATEMENTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH ACTION BY THE BOARD

Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems and all trade flows resulting therefrom

22. The action on this item is reported in part II, paragraph 15, above.

23. The spokesman for the Group of 77 (Egypt) thanked the President for his efforts during the difficult negotiations on the item 5. He underlined that the essence of the position of his Group on this item had been a genuine interest to enhance trade and economic relations between the Group of 77 and countries members of Group D.

24. His Group had always esteemed highly the friendship and co-operation with Group D, which would continue to exist in the future. It was equally convinced that its partners in Group D shared its interests for the mutual benefit of all the countries of the two groups. In the absence of agreement on the future work programme, for reasons of which all were aware, his Group gave its full support to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in his wisdom to conduct the work of the secretariat in this respect. The Group of 77 was grateful for the President's compromise text submitted in the informal negotiations which it supported as it considered it as representing its position. He read out that text, asking that it be incorporated in the record as follows:

The Trade and Development Board,

Decides that in the future, consideration of the trade relations of the Eastern European countries with other States members of UNCTAD, in particular with developing countries, should be carried out as a part of UNCTAD's discussions on trade and development issues;

Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in the light of the above and of the views expressed at the current session of the Board:

(a) To follow developments in the processes of economic policy reform and integration of Eastern European countries into the world economy with a view to identifying opportunities and implications arising therefrom in their trade and economic relations, particularly with the developing countries; and to considering implications on overall resource flows for developing countries;

(b) To identify, upon request, possibilities of providing support to these processes, within the available resources, in order to enhance their trade and economic co-operation with the developing countries; and to provide such support to developing countries in identifying increased opportunities in trade expansion with the former;

Further requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to submit to the second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board a report on the implementation of this decision, as well as on possible orientations of future work in this area, including technical co-operation activities.

25. Concluding, he wished to make clear that his Group had never had any intention to insinuate that the countries of Group D had any system other than the system they had freely chosen for themselves. By "countries of Group D" he meant those mentioned in list D of resolution 1995 (XIX) of the General Assembly.

26. The spokesman for Group B (United Kingdom) said that his Group considered that in the light of statements by Groups and delegations there was a clear need for UNCTAD to integrate item 5 into general discussion. Furthermore, it believed that the work of what was currently called the Programme for Trade with Socialist Countries should be integrated into the overall work of the UNCTAD secretariat. Group B regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement on definitive guidance to the Secretary-General on the direction of UNCTAD's future work in this area. This was particularly disappointing in the light of the momentous changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the impact that they would have on the world economy. Nevertheless, Group B hoped the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would draw what conclusions he could from the debate and take measures required to achieve the negotiations, keeping in mind the views expressed by Groups and delegations.

27. The representative of Hungary, recalled that his delegation's position had already been set out in its statement during the debate on item 5. However, he wished to reiterate why Hungary was not in a position to accept the text read out by the spokesman for the Group of 77. First, Hungary continued to believe that the notion of trade among countries having different economic and social systems, and the underlying concept, made no sense in the case of Hungary, whether for economic or for political reasons. Hungary was thus no longer in a position to take part in any UNCTAD activities based on the above or any similar approach. For Hungary, it was a strong point of principle and not a matter of putting the issue elsewhere on the agenda. In the light of the text referred to by the spokesman for the Group of 77, he added that UNCTAD's mandate was wide enough to deal properly with any specific issue that might arise and to deal with it in accordance with the intergovernmental structure of UNCTAD.

28. The representative of Poland, referring to the statements by the spokesmen of the Group of 77 and Group B, said that his delegation had full confidence that the Secretary-General would use his discretion, having due regard to the views expressed during the session, in arranging the work programme of UNCTAD in the most effective and purposeful manner. His delegation had great understanding for the positions of the various groups and China and at the same time had endeavoured to clarify the changing conditions under which Poland was in a position to effect economic integration with the outside world. It had hoped that its endeavours would be reciprocated and that its new situation would be understood and properly taken into account. His delegation was willing to consider in UNCTAD all issues of trade and economic relations between Poland and all other countries of the world, including developing countries, provided that they were not tackled in a regional context under a single agenda item or a particular individual area of UNCTAD's work and that this did not amount to creating within UNCTAD an institutional framework to monitor the overall economic policy of the Polish Government.

29. The representative of Czechoslovakia recalled that his delegation's position was clearly expressed in its statement during the debate in the Sessional Committee. The draft text which the spokesman for the Group of 77 had read out went far beyond what his delegation had expressed in its statement or was in a position to accept. He fully endorsed the President's statement and had full confidence in the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and that he would take full account of all views expressed in the debate at the current session.

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION [1/]

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session;

(b) Adoption of the report on credentials;

(c) Provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-seventh regular session of the Board and organization of the work of the session;

(d) Designation of the President of the thirty-seventh regular session of the Board

2. Follow-up and review of the implementation of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII in accordance with Board decision 350 (XXXIV): selected issues requiring attention by the Board

Services within the mandate of UNCTAD as defined in the Final Act [2/]

3. Protectionism and structural adjustment and, in conjunction therewith, developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 105 (8) of the Final Act

4. Other issues for consideration by the Board as mandated in General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), and in the context of the relevant provisions of the Final Act on international trade, as well as other pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Conference:

(a) The impact of technological change on patterns of international trade;

(b) The implications of bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration, especially those which have a major impact on global trade, in particular on the trade and development of developing countries

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1/ Adopted by the Board at its 766th meeting on 12 March 1990.

2/ For statements made in connection with the adoption of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, see Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Seventh session, Vol.I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.88.II.D.1), part one B and part two.

5. Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems and all trade flows resulting therefrom

6. Arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

7. Other matters in the field of trade and development

8. Other matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:

   (a) Restrictive Business Practices;

   (b) Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget;

   (c) Manufactures;

   (d) Future meetings on iron ore

9. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;

   (b) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees;

   (c) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (d) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure;

   (e) Review of the calendar of meetings;

   (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

10. Other business

11. Adoption of the report of the Board.

Annex II

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION [1/]

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session;

   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials;

   (d) Provisional agenda for the second part of the thirty-seventh regular session of the Board

2. Follow-up and review of the implementation of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII in accordance with Board decision 350 (XXXIV):

   - Stocktaking of the implementation of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII in preparation for UNCTAD VIII

3. Interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system[2/]

4. Debt and development problems of developing countries

   - Including discussion called for in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 44/232 of 22 December 1989 on trends in the transfer of resources to and from the developing countries and their impact on the economic growth and sustained development of those countries

5. Arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

6. United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986 - 1990: initiation of preparations for UNCTAD's intergovernmental input into the final assessment by the General Assembly in 1991

7. Assistance to the Palestinian people (Conference resolutions 146 (VI) of 2 July 1983 and 169 (VII) of 3 August 1987)

1/ The inclusion of an item on UNCTAD's contribution to the preparations for the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade will depend on the outcome of consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in accordance with Board decision 373 (XXXVI).

2/ Pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of General Assembly resolution 44/219 and paragraphs 105 (7) and (8) of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, and in line with the consensus recorded at the 730th plenary meeting of the Board (second part of the thirty-fourth session), it has been agreed that, in the consideration of item 3 in its entirety, delegations will be free to refer to developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular interest to developing countries. It has also been agreed that an informal exchange of this matter will be organized to which the Director-General of GATT will be invited.

8. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to sustainable development (Board decision 370 (XXXV));

(b) Economic co-operation among developing countries:

(i) Analyses and proposals for the facilitation of trade expansion among developing countries (paragraph 4 (f) of resolution 4 (V) of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries

(ii) Problems of trade financing in developing countries (paragraph 4 (c) (iii) of resolution 4 (V) of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries;

(c) Export promotion: report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-third session;

(d) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-third annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

[to be completed in the light of developments]

9. Other matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies

[to be completed in the light of developments]

10. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;

(b) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees;

(c) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1991;

(d) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

(e) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure;

(f) Review of the calendar of meetings;

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

[to be completed in the light of developments]

11. Other business

12. Adoption of the report of the Board.